

Our Lady of the Valleys Parish



Parish Priest	Father Maleko Api-Tufuga
Churches	Our Lady of Grace Church, 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga (HTG) St Francis Xavier Church, 152 Stokes Valley Road. Stokes Valley (SV)
Sunday Eucharist	Sat 5:30 pm Vigil (SV) 8:30 am (SV) and 10:30 am (HTG)
Weekday Eucharist	Tuesday / Thursday 9:00 am (Stokes Valley) Wednesday/Saturday 9:00 am (Heretaunga) Friday 9:30 am (Heretaunga)
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament	Friday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (Heretaunga)
Reconciliation	Every Saturday at 9.30 am (Heretaunga)
Presbytery and Parish Office	5 Palmer Crescent Heretaunga Tel (04) 972 4282
Parish Administrator	Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Website	www.olv.org.nz E-mail office@olv.org.nz pp@olv.org.nz
St Brendan's School Newsletter	56 Palmer Cres Tel (04) 939 1909 10 March, Term 1 2026 Newsletter

5 th Sunday in Lent		READINGS YEAR A	22 nd March 2026
22 nd Mar	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Ezekiel 37: 12-14 Romans 8: 8-11 John 11: 1-45	
29 th Mar	1 st Reading 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 50: 4-7 Philippians 2: 6-11 Matthew 26: 14-27, 66	

UPCOMING EVENT		
Wed 25 th Mar	06.30 am	Mass during Lent at OLOG
	10.00 am	Parish Morning Tea at Cars Museum
Thurs 26 th May	07.30 pm	Parish Liturgy Committee



EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE
What is happening around our Diocese? Stay up to date with Archdiocesan events - <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/events/>



WEDNESDAYS OF LENT

On each Wednesday in Lent there will be an additional Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church at 6:30 am for those who might like to choose this as a Lenten Observance

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (RITE II) will be celebrated at **St Francis Xavier Church on Sunday 22nd March at 4:00pm**



PARISH MORNING TEA

Come and join us for some company and a coffee at 10am on the last Wednesday of the month at Cars Inc Museum Cafe in George Daniels Drive, off Alexander Road. Feel free to bring a friend.

TIMETABLE FOR HOLY WEEK		
Tuesday 30th March	9:00 am	Mass - St Francis Xavier Church
Wednesday 1st April	6:30 am	Mass - Our Lady of Grace Church
	9:00 am	Mass - Our Lady of Grace Church
	7.30 pm	Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral
Holy Thursday 2nd April	7:30 pm	Mass of the Last Supper Our Lady of Grace Church
Good Friday 3rd April	3:00 pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of Our Lord St Francis Xavier Church
Holy Saturday 4th April	7:30 pm	Vigil Light Service St Francis Xavier Church
Easter Sunday 5th April	8:30 am	Mass of Easter - St Francis Xavier Church
	10:30 am	Mass of Easter - Our Lady of Grace Church

THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

Baptism unites us to the saving death of Christ and enables us to share his life: 'when we were baptised, we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life' (Rom 6:3-4).



When baptism is celebrated during the Easter Vigil, this connection between the paschal mystery and the new life given in baptism is readily made.

Triple immersion in the waters of baptism refers not just to the Father, Son, and Spirit, but symbolises participation in the three days that Jesus spent in the tomb before the Father raised him to life.

St Paul reminds us that new life with the risen Christ has already begun in those who have been baptised. Despite our frailty and sinfulness, despite our weakness and brokenness, 'nothing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Rom 8:39). The Church is the community of the baptised, a community of redeemed saints and sinners that witnesses to Christ's life now as it awaits the fullness of risen life at the end of time.

MINISTRY VOLUNTEER'S FOR HOLY WEEK EVENTS

In the upcoming week the Liturgy Committee will be looking for people to assist in the celebration of the various services during Holy Week. The services range from Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Holy Thursday and Good Friday through to more decorators and readers for the additional reading at the Easter Vigil; To try to make it easier for these people (and to save some of the ringing around that happens to cover all the events/ministries) lists of the ways that parishioners can assist have been placed in the foyer of both Churches. For more information contact: Liz McCaul: 021 1028297





CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE EASTER RAFFLE

CWL will be selling raffle tickets at all Masses this weekend 21st, 22nd and next weekend 28th, 29th March.

There are two Easter hampers to be won so at \$2 a ticket or \$5 for three you won't want to miss out! The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday, 1st April after 9am Mass when all Parishioners are invited to join us in the Pettit Centre for morning tea and hot cross buns. Members please note this will replace our usual monthly meeting for April. With Easter blessings to you all.

Everyone is invited to a time of prayer and reflection in preparation for Holy Week during this Season of Lent.

LENTEN RECOLLECTION

28 March 2025 Fr. Ron Bennett Our Lady of Grace Church,

1.00 – 1.30pm morning tea

1.30 – 3.30pm Recollection, Reflection, Prayers

3.30 – 4.30pm Confession

"Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart;

for I am gracious and merciful." — Joel 2:12-13



WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

Does a person receive more grace by taking Holy Communion from the chalice as well as from the host?

The short answer is '**NO**'. Even a tiny particle of the sacred host is a total meeting with the Lord who is the Bread of Life. It is not a question of receiving more grace but a more complete fulfilment of the Lord's invitation at the last supper- to eat this bread and drink this cup.

1. The words of the Eucharistic Prayer say "take this Chalice, and drink from it..."
2. Communion is only distributed by Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
3. Taking a '**self help**' i.e., **dipping the host into the chalice to the Blood of Christ is not correct**
4. It is a Priest who can intinct the bread into the blood and offer to communicants the Body and Blood of Christ – but the blood could not be placed in the hand and needed to be administered on the tongue. However, we are not supposed to give Communion on the tongue today for health and safety reasons.



ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

'Today, in a particular way, in the face of the many questions of the human heart, as well as the tragic situations of injustice, violence and suffering that mark our time, it is essential that our faith be alert, attentive and prophetic. It should likewise open our eyes to the darkness of the world, and bring to others the light of the Gospel through our commitment to peace, justice and solidarity.'

Pope Leo XIV, [Angelus](#)



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' TRAINING

A session will be held on Sunday, 22nd March, after the 8:30am Mass at SFX and also after 10:30am Mass at OLOG Church. This is intended as a refresher session (now that we are distributing Communion under both kinds), for those Parishioners who are already on the roster, and for any new people who would like to join this important ministry.

We are also seeking parishioners to take Communion to local Rest Homes and to the sick in their homes. You are required to be a Eucharistic Minister to undertake this very special ministry.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? OR HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?



If you are new to our Parish then welcome. Please fill in one of the cards in the foyer: "New to our Parish?" so we can put you on the Parish roll. We are a very vibrant and welcoming Parish and have lots of groups and ministries you might like to join. For more information, OR TO CORRECT YOUR DETAILS please contact Jovena in the Parish Office 972 4282 or email office@olov.org.nz



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER all who are sick and unwell, and those who are lonely. We pray also for those who have died recently especially Fr. Denis Collins and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE'S

Board of Proprietors is seeking a Uniform Shop Coordinator who is friendly, organised, and reliable person to run the College's onsite Uniform Shop. Please refer to the advertisement on our website for the details <https://www.sacredheartcollege.school.nz/our-school/our-people/staff-vacancies>

Reader / Writers to volunteer and help us support students with class related tests and assessments over several days. You will need good handwriting, spelling, and communication skills. Typing ability may also be an advantage. Training would be provided. For more information please contact Supported Learning Lead/SENCO Kate Baird via email bairdk@sacredheartcollege.school.nz

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



FOR THE YOUNG ONES

GROWING

WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE A



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



5th Sunday of Lent • John 11:1-45

PUZZLE FOR YOU

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

GOD'S SON
SICKNESS
RISE

LAZARUS
MARY
MARTHA

BELIEVES
WEEPING
WRAPPED

S A O E T R H I E T Y
T W R A P P E D H O N
O E K R W Y A O Y U T
B E L I E V E S T S H
H P T S A O M Y N I E
T I H E U N A J H C S
U N S V M A R Y L K O
O G K H E I T D W N U
T P A Y N O H S Y E A
I S D L A Z A R U S H
G O D S S O N F E S R

MISSION

Write the words, "God can do anything" on a piece of paper. Read it every morning.